Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23 with the following amended paragraph.

According to U.S. 2003/0132539 ~~WO 01 97 707~~ the shrinkage parameters are displayed on the holder in the form of a printed bar code. U.S. 2002/0076530 ~~WO 01 32 093~~ discloses an identifier only generally. It is also known to place the identifier on the ceramic block itself.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27 with the following amended paragraph.

DE 40 30 176 Al discloses a grinding machine that has a keyboard, a video monitor and a scanning camera. Furthermore, U.S. 6,614,538 ~~EP 1 093 768 A2~~ discloses a system comprising a measuring device and machining equipment for the production of a fitting for tooth restorations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 32 with the following amended paragraph.

From the prior art it is known to connect up a commercial bar-code scanner, which will read the enciphered shrinkage data in a bar code located on the blank. This is basically described in CA 02392325 ~~WP 1 106 146~~. Furthermore, it is known to collect the data by actuating the keyboard of the PC.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20 with the following amended paragraph.

Furthermore, there is provided in machining chamber 2 a measuring device 16, which in the present embodiment is in the form of a position-sensitive sensor. Measuring device 16 comprises a projection unit 17, which emits a measuring ray, and a receiving unit 18, on which a back-scattered reception ray impinges after reflection from the blank. Measuring device 16 can be shifted relatively to blank 11, as indicated by the arrow 19. Such a measuring device is illustrated and explained in U.S. 6,614,538 ~~EP 1 0 93 7 68 A2~~ and the embodiments disclosed therein are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, measuring device 16 may be mounted on tool 14, if desired, and moved together with same.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 26 with the following amended paragraph.

In the case of the position-sensitive sensor 16 illustrated in Fig. 1, the power output of a laser diode is regulated according to the intensity of the light in the receiving photodiode (U.S. 6,614,538) ~~(cf EP 1 093 768 a2)~~, so that the controlled variable for the power output allows for conclusions on identifier 22 in the form of a bar code. Alternatively, the intensity itself can be evaluated whilst the power of the laser diode is set at a fixed value.